STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

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STANLEY

Feb. 27th 1918.

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Gentlemen,

As Deputy Medical Officer, I beg to present to your Council a brief report on the year 1917; the brevity being due to the two following reasons;-

1. As in the previous year, the Local Government Board have issued instructions that reports must be short and confined to vital matters affecting the public health of the district etc., and that this is to be considered as merely an interim report.

2. In the absence of your Medical Officer of Health with His Majesty's Forces, I am without much information on matters included in his usual annual summary.

I will therefore confine this report to matters affecting the health of the district, and compare 1917 with previous years.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

There were 977 cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

The following table compares the past five years.

	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913.
Diptheria.	55	35	35	18	44
Erysipelas.	10	13	4	16	12
Scarlet Fever.	89	202	165	109	46
Enteric Fever.	5	2	0	5	7
Puerperal Fever.	0	0	0	4	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	8	3	8	3	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	37	37	66	43	39
Other Forms of Tuberculosis.	20	31	52	29	17
Measles.	637	14	(Not	Notifiable)	
German Measles.	116	43	("	"	)
	977	380	330	227	165

It may be noticed that the large increase in the total is due to the measles epidemic.

DIPTHERIA.

There were 55 cases reported last year, against 35 in each of the two previous years. The disease was spread over the whole year, but the last four months gave 50% of the cases. There were 13 deaths, equal to 23.6% of the cases attacked.

A separate report has been made during the year on the subject of this disease; 53 cases were removed to Hospital, one died before removal could take place, and one was a negative case.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified was much lower than in the 3 previous years - there being 89 in 1917, 202 in 1916, 165 in 1915 and 109 in 1914.

The worst months were October with 12 cases and March and December with 11 cases each. The disease was in most cases of a mild type, only 2 deaths resulting giving a mortality rate of 2.24%,86 cases were taken into Hospital, 2 were isolated, and 1 died before the patient could be removed.

ENTERIC FEVER.

5 cases were reported during the year, but only one proved positive. This case received infection from a neighbouring town. There were no deaths from this disease.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

8 cases occurred last year, as compared with 3 in 1916, and 8 in 1915.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis reported was the same as in 1916 - 37 a less number than in the three preceeding years. There were 12 deaths from this disease compared with 17 in 1916.

TUBERCULAR DISEASE OTHER THAN PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Other forms of Tuberculosis also showed a diminution in numbers notified. There were 20 cases, the lowest figure since 1913. The number of deaths was 12 against 17 in the previous year.

MEASLES AND GERMAN MEASLES.

In 1917 almost throughout the country there was a more or less heavy epidemic of measles. The figures for this district were 753; each months total being February 3, April 10, May 76, June 95, July 52, August 26, September 37, October 120, November 228, December 106.

In June it was considered advisable that the Lady health visitors appointed by your Council should commence their duties, and they have done good work to the end of the year in visiting all cases notified, and instructing the parents. Fortunately the disease was of a mild type and only 8 deaths resulted - 1.06% of the cases notified.

NON NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

WHOOPING COUGH

Whooping Cough was the cause of 5 deaths, 4 of which were under the age of 1 year. The deaths from this disease in 1916 and 1915 were 4 and 8 respectively.

DIARRHOEA AND ENTERITIS

There were 8 deaths resulting from these diseases as compared with 6 in 1916, 20 in 1915, 28 in 1914, and 30 in 1913.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Under present conditions there is a great difficulty in making an approximately correct estimation of the population of the district. After consultation, I consider that the population should be estimated at the same figure as that of the previous year - 28,000.

DEATH RATE

237 deaths were registered during the past year in this district, and including transferable deaths the total deaths of residents numbered 285. Taking the above estimate of the population, this gives a death rate of 10.18 per 1,000 population, which is lower even than the previous year with 10.4.

The following is a comparison of the deaths in the last three years with regard to the age period.

	1917	1916	1915
Under 1 year.	65	82	104
1 to 2 years.	15	23	60
2 to 5 years.	19	20	43
5 to 15 years.	26	12	21
15 to 25 years.	12	15	11
25 to 45 years.	35	33	32
45 to 65 years.	56	53	61
65 and upwards.	57	54	55
	285	292	387

It is satisfactory to note that the decrease in juvenile deaths continues.

BIRTH RATE

There were 651 births registered in 1917 against 597 in 1916, 797 in 1915, and 920 in 1914. The birth rate for the past year per 1,000 population is 23.5 and for the previous three years 21.3, 28.5, and 33.7 respectively. The total of 651 births was made up by 342 males and 309n females.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

65 deaths (or 22.8% of the total) occurred under the age of 1 year in comparison with 82 in 1916, 104 in 1915 and 139 in 1914. This is equal to a death rate of 99.84 per 1,000 births compared with a rate of 137.35 in the previous year. Included in the total are 27 deaths (41.5%) due to immaturity, 13 (20%) due to infectious disease and 8 (12.3%) due to respiratory disease.

The following table compares the various rates for this district with those for the County per 1,000 population.

	Stanley	County.
Birth rate.	23.5	23.0
Death rate.	10.14	13.3
Infant Mortality Rate. (-per 1,000 births)	99.84	115.
Zymotic Death Rate	1.28	1.32
Small Pox.	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	.07	.04
Diptheria.	.46	.19
Fevers (Enteric etc)	-	.03
Measles.	.28	.39
Whooping Cough.	.18	.16
Diarrhoea. (under 2 years)	.28	.50
Diarrhoea. (over 2 years)	-	.15
Phthisis.	.42	.98
Other Tubercular Diseases.	.42	.47
Acute Respiratory Diseases.	1.67	2.3

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

18 specimens were sent for examination, 14 Phthisis, 3 of Enteric Fever, and 1 of Diptheria - of these 5 proved positive - 3 of Phthisis and 2 of Enteric Fever.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

SCAVENGING

This work is done under contract.

COWSHEDS

There are 9 cowkeepers and 9 milk purveyors. Only in one case was informal notice sent to abate a nuisance, and this was done.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 8 slaughter houses in the district. In 4 cases nuisances were abated on receipt of informal notices.

HOUSING

During the year, 25 new self-contained houses were completed and occupied, as compared with 64 in the previous year. Of the total

24 consisted of 4 rooms, scullery and bathroom.
1 consisted of 5 rooms, scullery and bathroom.

OLD PROPERTY.

6 houses, owing to structural defects were closed and 8 demolished during the year, 2 ash-pit privies were converted into water closets, 2825 ash closets and 803 ash pit privies.

1. The number of dwelling houses inspected under, and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Housing Town Planning Act 1909.

30

2. The number of dwelling houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.

15

3. The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Order.

Nil.

4. The number of Closing Orders made.

Nil
(6 closed involuntarily)

5. The number of dwelling houses the defects of which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders.

6. The number of dwelling houses which, after the making of Closing Orders, were put into a fit state for human habitation.

Nil

7. A general character of the defects found to exist.

Defective roofs, dampness, decayed walls, defective spouting and Colliery Subsidence.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS' ACT

There are now 16 factories and 32 workshops in the District. Inspection yielded only 3 causes of complaint on the ground of lack of cleanliness and these were remedied. No material likely to be injurious to health is used in any of these works.

J. GEMMELL M.B. Ch. B.

Deputy Medical Officer.

The Urban District Council,

Stanley.